

2020 APAAC Annual Legal Assistant Virtual Conference

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VULNERABLE ADULT CRIME VICTIMS: PERSPECTIVES & SUPPORT

Presented by:

Lindsay Ashworth

Sexual and Domestic Violence Response Manager, ACESDV

JJ Rico

Attorney and CEO for Arizona Center for Disability Law

&

Julie Stylinski

Deaf Blind Specialist, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

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ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

3838 N. Central Ave., Suite 850

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Language Tips

<u>Do Not</u> ☹️	<u>Do</u> 😊
Do not label – i.e., don't turn people into objects (<i>the disabled, the blind, the deaf, the asthmatic, the quad</i>)	Do emphasize people: "Person-First Language" (people with disabilities, person with asthma, person with quadriplegia) <i>Note: Some individuals prefer identity-first language (e.g., deaf woman, autistic boy) and we honor such personal choice. But, when in doubt, use Person-first language.</i>
Do not say "the C word" (cripple, crippled)	Do say Disability or Disabled
Do not say "the H word" (handicap, handicapped)	Do say Disability or Accessible (wheelchair accessible parking, person with a disability, etc.)
Do not say "the R word" (retarded, mental retardation)	Do say Intellectual or Developmental Disability
Do not say "Impediment" or "Impaired" (speech impediment, hearing impaired)	Do say ... visual disability ... blind or low vision ... hearing/auditory disability ... deaf or hard-of-hearing, speech disability, etc.
Do not use euphemisms (special, challenged, differently abled, etc.) or made-up words (handicapable, diversability)	Do use Disability
Do not say "wheelchair-bound" or "confined to a wheelchair"	Do say "person who uses a wheelchair" or "wheelchair user"
Do not use terms that imply pity (suffers from, afflicted with, birth defect, victim of, sick, etc.)	Do say Disability may be since birth/born with or acquired (accident, illness)
Do not say "normal" or "healthy" to describe the absence of disability	Do say "without a disability" or non-disabled <i>Note: Someone who is "able-bodied" may have a hidden disability.</i>